



07 OCT 2009

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FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.  
600 CONGRESS AVE.  
SUITE 2400  
AUSTIN, TX 78701

In re Application of COUFFIN et al :  
U.S. Application No.: 10/596,578 :  
PCT Application No.: PCT/CA2006/000772 :  
Int. Filing Date: 12 May 2006 :  
Priority Date Claimed: 12 May 2005 :  
Attorney Docket No.: BRKP:025US :  
For: ABSORBENT HYDROPHOBIC :  
BORONATE GALACTOMANNAN COMPLEXES :  
AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING SAME :

DECISION

This is in response to applicant's renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) filed 07 August 2009.

### **BACKGROUND**

On 12 May 2006, applicant filed international application PCT/CA2006/000772, which claimed priority of an earlier Canada application filed 12 May 2005. A copy of the international application was communicated to the USPTO from the International Bureau on 16 November 2006. The thirty-month period for paying the basic national fee in the United States expired on 12 November 2007.

On 16 June 2006, applicant filed national stage papers in the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US). The submission was accompanied by, *inter alia*, the basic national fee required by 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(1).

On 08 July 2008, the DO/EO/US mailed a Notification of Missing Requirements Under 35 U.S.C. 371 (Form PCT/DO/EO/905), which indicated that an oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.497 must be filed.

On 06 February 2009, applicant filed a petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a).

On 18 March 2009, this Office mailed a decision dismissing the 06 February 2009 petition.

On 07 August 2009, applicant filed the present renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a).

### DISCUSSION

A petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) must be accompanied by: (1) an oath or declaration by each applicant on his or her own behalf and on behalf of the nonsigning joint inventors, (2) factual proof that the missing joint inventors refuse to join in the application or cannot be reached after diligent effort, (3) the fee set forth in §1.17(i), and (4) the last known addresses of the nonsigning joint inventors.

Applicant has previously satisfied items (1), (3), and (4) above.

With regard to item (2) above, MPEP 409.03(d) states in relevant part,

Where a refusal to sign the application papers is alleged, the circumstances of this refusal must be specified in an affidavit or declaration by the person to whom the refusal was made. Statements by a party not present when an oral refusal is made will not be accepted.

Before a refusal can be alleged, it must be demonstrated that a bona fide attempt was made to present a copy of the application papers (specification, including claims, drawings, and oath or declaration) to the nonsigning inventor for signature. A copy of the application papers should be sent to the last known address of the nonsigning inventor, or, if the nonsigning inventor is represented by counsel, to the address of the nonsigning inventor's attorney.

When there is an express oral refusal, that fact along with the time and place of the refusal must be stated in the affidavit or declaration. When there is an express written refusal, a copy of the document evidencing that refusal must be made part of the affidavit or declaration.

When it is concluded by the 37 CFR 1.47 applicant that a nonsigning inventor's conduct constitutes a refusal, all facts upon which that conclusion is based should be stated in the affidavit or declaration. If there is documentary evidence to support facts alleged in the affidavit or declaration, such evidence should be submitted. Whenever a nonsigning inventor gives a reason for refusing to sign the application oath or declaration, that reason should be stated in the affidavit or declaration.

The petition states that joint inventor Mohammed Berrada refuses to sign the application papers. The petition adequately demonstrates that a bona fide attempt was made to present a copy of the application papers to Berrada for signature (see affidavit of Frederic Picard, ¶4). Furthermore, the petition sufficiently demonstrates that Berrada refuses to sign. In particular, Berrada's statement that he will no longer be corresponding with Mr. Picard evidences a constructive refusal to sign. Thus, it can be concluded with reasonable certainty that Berrada refuses to join in the application.

### CONCLUSION

For the reasons above, the renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) is GRANTED.

The application has an International Filing Date under 35 U.S.C. 363 of 12 May 2006, and a date under 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(1), (c)(2), and (c)(4) of 06 February 2009.

As set forth in 37 CFR 1.47(a), a notice of the filing of this application will be forwarded to the nonsigning inventor at the last known address of record and will be published in the *Official Gazette*.

This application is being forwarded to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) for further processing in accordance with this decision.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Lin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bryan Lin  
PCT Legal Examiner  
PCT Legal Office

Telephone: 571-272-3303  
Facsimile: 571-273-0459



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Mohammed Berrada  
2381 Asselin  
Longueuil, Quebec J4M 2M5  
CANADA

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For: ABSORBENT HYDROPHOBIC  
BORONATE GALACTOMANNAN COMPLEXES  
AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING SAME

Dear Mohammed Berrada:

You are named as a joint inventor in the above-captioned United States national stage application, filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.47(a) and 35 U.S.C. 116. Should a patent be granted, you will be designated as an inventor.

As a named inventor, you are entitled to inspect any paper in the file wrapper of the application, order copies of all or any part thereof (at a prepaid cost set forth in 37 CFR 1.19) or to make your position of record in the application. Alternatively, you may arrange to do any of the preceding through a registered patent agent or attorney presenting written authorization from you. If you choose to join in the application, counsel of record (see below) would presumably assist you. Joining in the application would entail the filing of an appropriate oath or declaration by you pursuant to 37 CFR 1.63.

*Bryan Lin*

Bryan Lin  
PCT Legal Examiner  
PCT Legal Office  
Telephone: 571-272-3303  
Facsimile: 571-273-0459

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